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DENTON FOX

The 1663 Anderson Edition  
of Henryson's *Testament of Cresseid*

The 1663 edition of the *Testament of Cresseid*, printed almost certainly by Andrew Anderson in Edinburgh, is as far as I know alone among the surviving prints or manuscripts of Robert Henryson's work which possess textual authority, in that no transcription of it has been published.<sup>1</sup> It seems worthwhile to complete the record by printing a transcription of it here, especially since there are a number of cruces in the text of this important poem, and scholars may like to have all the pertinent information available.

The textual problems connected with the *Testament* are fairly complicated, and they need not be rehashed in detail here. The situation, in its essence, is this. The best text of the *Testament* is provided by the 1593 quarto published by Henry Charteris in Edinburgh (C), but the text of this edition can be corrected at numerous points by the text in Thynne's 1532 edition of Chaucer (T), in which the poem appears as a pendant to Chaucer's *Troilus*. The Anderson print (A) has been thought to be a descendant of C, and so without any authority, but I noted that it agrees at various points with T, against C, and so argued, in my edition, that it is not descended directly, or solely, from C, but instead has independent authority. As far as I can judge, most but not all of my reviewers have agreed with me: some have argued that A has been contaminated by a printer who imported readings from T; some, on the other hand, suggested that I did not pay enough attention to the readings in A.

If it is the case, as I think, that A has some authority, and has not been contaminated by T, then all of the readings on which A and T agree, against C, must either (1) be superior readings which go back, if not to the original, at least to an archetype, or (2) be explainable as coincident errors. The situation is made slightly more complicated, however, by the fact that T, because of its provenance, and A, because

1. A possible exception is the anglicized version of the *Fables* printed in London by Richard Smith in 1577. This text is very close to both the Harleian MS and the Bassandyne print, but is not descended solely from either, and so theoretically may have some authority. In practice, however, it appears to be of no value.

For the attribution of the 1663 edition to Anderson, and for a bibliographical account of it, see my edition of the *Testament* (London, 1968), pp. 5-6.

of its late date, both show considerable anglicization. This common anglicization is responsible for many agreements between A and T; for example, the agreements listed in the apparatus below for lines 142, 287, 338, 423, 501, 577, 583, 593. Or, exceptionally, A and T may retain the right Scots reading where C, itself somewhat anglicized, adopts a southern form, as in line 290. But where anglicization is not involved, A and T, when they agree against C, appear usually to have the better reading: see, for example, the agreements listed below for lines 178, 218, 275, 479, 523, 554. The few places where A and T agree against C, but have the worse reading, seem in every case to have satisfactory explanations (see the notes in my edition to lines 357, 445, 481). In several places A is alone in preserving what I take to be the best reading: 48, 222, 549. There remain some lines, such as 283, 382, 390, 411, 420, in which it is difficult to be confident about the correct reading.

In comparing A with T, and with the later English prints and manuscripts descended from T, I have found nothing to suggest any contamination. There are a few cases of coincident error, though not as many as one might expect.<sup>2</sup> If the printer of A (or its predecessor) had in fact been using T (or its descendant), he would surely have imported many more of its errors. The burden of proof lies, I think, on anyone who wishes to claim contamination.

The text which follows is intended to reproduce the spelling, punctuation, and capitalization of A, except that the ornamental capitals at the beginnings of lines 1, 407, 470, and 577 have not been noted. Although A is mostly in black letter, the printer occasionally used roman type, mostly for proper names: this roman type is here reproduced by italics.<sup>3</sup> In A four stanzas, lines 302-29, are misplaced, and follow line 357; these stanzas are here transferred to their proper position. The apparatus is intended to show all the substantive variations between A and C: the numerous instances where A agrees with C, against T, are not given, partly because these instances cast no light on the value of A, and partly because they are all noted in my edition. Dialectal variations, such as *bath-hes*, *such-sic*, *church-kirk*, *each-ilk*, are also omitted.

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2. Besides the agreements between A and T noted above, A agrees with the St. John's College MS in line 19, and with both the St. John's and the Kinaston MSS in lines 371 and 500. A Scottish printer would not be likely to have seen these manuscripts. For the frequency of coincident variation, see George Kane, ed., *Piers Plowman: The A Version* (London, 1960), pp. 59, 115-72.

3. Except for the title of the poem: in A the first three words of the title are in large roman capitals, and *Cresseid* is in large italic capitals.

THE  
TESTAMENT  
OF  
CRESSEID.

A Dolefull season to a carefull dite,  
Should correspond, and be equivalent:  
Right so it was, when I began to write,  
This Tragedie, the weather right fervent:  
5 When *Aries* in midst of the Lent,  
Showres of hail can from the North descend,  
That scantly from the cold I might defend.

Yet neverthelesse, within mine Orature,  
I stood, when *Titan* had his beams bright  
10 Withdrawen down, and syled under cure,  
And fair *Venus*, the beauty of the Night,  
Vp-rose, and set unto the West full right,  
Her golden Face in opposition,  
Of god *Phœbus* direct descending down.

15 Throughout the Glasse her beams brast so sore,  
That I might see on every side me by:  
The Northern winde had purified the Aire,  
And shed the misty clouds from the Sky:  
The frosts friezed, the blasts bitterly,  
20 From Pole-artick came whisling, loud and shill,  
And caused me remove against my will.

For I trusted, that *Venus* Loves Queen,  
To whom, sometime, I heght obedience:  
My faded heart of love she would make green,  
25 And thereupon, with humble reverence,  
I thought to pray her hie magnificence,  
But for great cold as then, I letted was,  
And in my chalmer to the fire can passe.

30 Though Love be hot, yet in a man of age,  
It kindleth not so soon, as in Youth-head,  
Of whom the blood is flowing in a rage,  
And in the old, the cowrage doufe and dead,  
Of which the fire outward, is best remead:

To help the Physick, where that nature failed:  
 35 I am expert, for I have both assailed.

I mend the fire, and beeked me about:  
 Then took a drink my spirits to comfort,  
 And armed me well, from the cold thereout,  
 To cut the Winter-night, and make it short.  
 40 I took a Quair, and left all other sport,  
 Written by worthy *Chaucer* glorious,  
 Of fair *Cresseid*, and worthy *Troylus*.

And there I found, after that *Diomed*,  
 Received had that Lady bright of hew:  
 45 How *Troylus* near out of wit abade,  
 And weeped sore, with visage pale of hew,  
 For which vain hope his tears can renew,  
 While esperance rejoyced him again,  
 Thus whiles in joy, he lived whiles in pain.

p. 5

Of her behest he had great comforting,  
 Trusting to *Troy*, that she should make retour,  
 Which he desired most of earthly thing.  
 For why? she was his only Paramour:  
 But when he saw passed both day and hour  
 55 Of her gain-come, then sorrow can oppresse,  
 His wofull heart, in care and heavinesse.

Of his distresse, me needs not to rehearse,  
 For worthy *Chaucer* in the samine Book,  
 In goodly tearms, and into jolly verse,  
 60 Compyled hath his cares, who will look.  
 To break my sleep another Quair I took,  
 In which I found the fatall destiny  
 Of false *Cresseid*, who ended wretchedly.

Who wots, if all that *Chaucer* wrote was true,  
 65 Nor I wot not, if this Narration,  
 Be autoriz'd, or feigned of the new,  
 By some Poet, through his invention,  
 Made to report the Lamentation,  
 And woful end of this lusty *Cresseid*,  
 70 And what distresse she tholed, and what dead.

When *Diomed* had all his appetite,

And more fulfilled of this fair Ladie:  
 Vpon another set his whole delight,  
 And sent to her a Letter of Repudie,  
 75 And her excluded from his companie:  
 Then desolate she walked up and down,  
 And some men sayes, into the Court common. p. 6

O fair *Cresseid*, the flowre and A-per-se  
 Of *Troy* and *Greece*, how wast thou fortunate,  
 80 To change in filth all thy feminitie,  
 And be with fleshly lust so maculate?  
 And go amongst the *Greeks* air and late,  
 So gigglot-like taking thy foul pleasance,  
 I have pittie thou should fall such mischance.

Yet neverthelesse, what ere men deem or say,  
 85 In scornfull Language of thy brucklenesse:  
 I shall excuse as far-forth as I may,  
 Thy woman-hood, thy wisdom, and fairnesse,  
 The which Fortune hath put to such distresse,  
 90 As her pleased, and nothing through the guilt  
 Of thee, through wicked language to be spilt.

This fair Ladie in this wise destitute,  
 Of all comfort, and consolation:  
 Right privily, but fellowship on foot,  
 95 Disaguised past far out of the Town,  
 One mile or two, unto a Mansion,  
 Builded full gay, where her Father *Calchas*,  
 Who then amongst the *Greeks* dwelling was.

When he her saw, the cause he can enquire  
 100 Of her coming: she said, sighing full sore;  
 From *Diomed* had gotten his desire,  
 He wox weary, and would have me no more.  
 Quoth *Calchas*, Daughter, weep thou not therefore,  
 Peradventure, all cometh for the best,  
 105 Welcome to me, thou art full dear a Guest.

This old *Calchas* after their Law was tho,  
 110 Keeper of the Temple as a Priest:  
 In which *Venus*, and her Son *Cupido*,  
 Were honoured, and his Chalmer was neist,  
 To which *Cresseid*, with bail anough in breist, p. 7

Vsed to passe, her prayers for to say:  
While at the last, upon a solemn day,

As custome was, the people far and near,  
Before the noon, unto the Temple went,  
115 With sacrifice devote, in their manner:  
But still *Cresseid* heavy in her intent,  
Into the Church would not her self present,  
For giving of the people any deeming,  
Of her expulse from *Diomed* the King.

120 But past into a secret Oratour,  
Where she might weep her wofull destiny:  
Behinde her back she closed fast the door,  
And on her knees bare fell down on hy:  
Vpon *Venus* and *Cupid* angerly,  
125 She cryed out, and said on this same wise;  
Alace! that ever I made you sacrifice.

Ye gave me once a divine responsall,  
That I should be the flowre of Love in *Troy*:  
Now am I made an unworthy outwaill,  
130 And in all care translated is my joy.  
Who shall me guide? who shall me now convoy?  
Since I from *Diomed*, and noble *Troylus*,  
Am clean excluded, as abject odious.

O false *Cupid*, is none to wyte but thou,  
135 And thy Mother of Love, the blinde goddess: p. 8  
Ye caus'd me alwayes understand and trow,  
The seed of Love was sown in my face,  
And ay grow green through your supplie and grace:  
But now, alace! that seed with frost is shorn,  
140 And I from Lovers left, and all forlorn.

When this was said, down in an extasie,  
Ravished in spirit, in a dream she fell:  
And by appearance hard where she did lye,  
*Cupid* the King, ringing the silver Bell:  
145 Which men might hear from heaven unto hell:  
At whose sound, before *Cupid* appears,  
The seven planets, descending from their Sphears:

Which hath power of all things generable,  
 To rule and stir by their great influence,  
 150 Weather and winde, and courses variable:  
 And first of all *Saturn* gave his sentence,  
 Who gave to *Cupid* little reverence:  
 But as a bousteous Churle on his manner,  
 Came crabbedly, with austern look and chear.

155 His face frozned, his lyre was like the Lead,  
 His teeth chattered, and checkered with the chin,  
 His eyes drowped how sunken in his head,  
 Out of his nose the mell-drop fast can rin:  
 With lips bla, and cheeks lean and thin:  
 160 The yce-shokles that at his haire down hang,  
 Was wonder great, and as a Spear so lang.

Out over his belt his lyart locks lay,  
 Feltered, unfair, over-fret with frosts hore:  
 His garment, and his guise full gay of gray,  
 165 His withered weed from him the wind out-wore:  
 A bousteous Bow into his hand he bare,  
 Vnder his Girdle, a flush of fellow flanes,  
 Fethered with Yce, and headed with Hail-stanes.

p. 9

Then *Jupiter* right fair and amiable,  
 170 God of the stars in the firmament,  
 And nowrish to all things generable,  
 From his father *Saturn* far different:  
 With burly face, and browes bright and brent,  
 Vpon his head a Garland good and gay,  
 175 Of flowres fair, as it had been in May.

His voice was clear, as chrystal was his een:  
 As golden wyre so glittering was his haire:  
 His garment and his guise full gay of green,  
 With golden lists, guilt on every gaire:  
 180 A burely Brand about his middle bare:  
 In his right hand he had a grounden Spear,  
 Of his Father the wrath from us to wear.

Next after him came *Mars* the god of yre,  
 Of strife, debate, and all dissention,  
 185 To chide and fight, as fierce as any fire,  
 In hard Harnesse, Hewmond, and Habergion,



And on his hench a rousty fell Fauchion,  
 And in his hand he had a rousty sword,  
 Writhing his face with many angry word.

- 190 Shaking his sword, before *Cupid* he came,  
 With red visage, and griesly glowring een:  
 And at his mouth a buller stood of foam,  
 Like to a Boar, whetting his tusks keen, p. 10  
 Right Souldiour-like, but temperance in teen:  
 195 An Horn he blew, with many a bousteous brag,  
 Which all the world with war hath made to wag.

- Then fair *Phæbus*, lantern, and lamp of light,  
 Of man and beast, both fruit, and flowrishing,  
 Tender nowrish, and banisher of night,  
 200 And of the world, causing by his moving,  
 And influence, life in all earthly thing:  
 Without comfort of whom, of force is nought,  
 But all must die that in the world is wrought.

- As King royal, he rode upon his Chaire,  
 205 The which *Phæton* guided sometime upright:  
 The brightnesse of his face when it was bare,  
 None might behold for piercing of his sight:  
 This golden Cart, with fiery beams bright,  
 Four yoaked Steeds full different of hew,  
 210 But bait or tiring through the Sphears drew.

- The first was sore, with mane as red as Rose,  
 Called *Eoy*, into the Orient:  
 The second Steed, to name, heght *Ethios*,  
 Whittish and pale, and something ascendent:  
 215 The third *Peros*, right hot, and right fervent:  
 The fourth was black, and called *Philogie*,  
 Which rolled *Phæbus* down into the Sea.

- Venus* was there present, that goddesse gay,  
 Her Sons quarrell for to defend, and make  
 220 Her own complaint: clad in a nyce array,  
 The one half green, the other half sable black:  
 With hair as gold, kemmed, and shed aback, p. 11  
 But in her face seemed great variance,  
 Whiles perfect truth, and whiles inconstance.

- 225 Vnder smiling, she was dissimulate,  
 Provocative with blinks amorous:  
 And suddenly changed and alterate,  
 And angry as a Serpent venomous,  
 Right pungitive, with words odious:  
 230 Thus vertant she was, who list to take keep,  
 With one eye laughing, and the other weep:  
  
 In tokening, that all fleshly Paramour,  
 Which *Venus* hath in rule and governance:  
 Is sometimes sweet, sometimes bitter and sowre,  
 235 Right unstable, and full of variance,  
 Mingled with careful joy, and fair pleasance:  
 Now hot, now cold, now blyth, now full of wo:  
 Now green as leaf, now withered and ago.  
  
 With Book in hand, then came *Mercurius*,  
 240 Right eloquent, and full of Rhetorie:  
 With polite tearms, and delicious,  
 With Pen and Ink to report all ready,  
 Setting songs, and singing merrily.  
 His hood was red heckled out over his crown,  
 245 Like to a Poet of the old fashion.  
  
 Boxes he bore, with fine Electuars,  
 And sugered Syrops for digestion:  
 Spices belonging to th'Apothecars,  
 With many wholesome sweet Confection:  
 250 Doctor in Physick, clad in Scarlot Gown,  
 And furred well, as such one ought to be:  
 Honest and good, and not a word could lie.  
  
 Next after him, came Lady *Cynthia*,  
 The last of all, and swiftest in her Sphear:  
 255 Of colour black, busked with horns twa,  
 And in the night she lists best to appear:  
 Hew as the Lead, of colour nothing clear:  
 For all her light she borrowed at her brother  
*Titan*, for of her self she hath none other.  
  
 260 Her guise was gray, and full of spots black,  
 And on her breast, a Churle painted full even,  
 Bearing a bunsh of thorns upon his back,  
 Which for his theft might clim no nearer heaven,

Thus when they gathered were, these gods seven.  
 265 *Mercurius* they choosde with one assent,  
 To be fore-speaker in the Parliament.

Who had been there, and listned for to hear,  
 His facund tongue, and tearms exquisite,  
 Of Rhetorick the practick he might lear,  
 270 In brief Sermon, a pregnant Sermon write,  
 Before *Cupid* wailling his capalite,  
 Speirs the cause of that vocation,  
 And he anone shew his intention.

Lo (quoth *Cupid*) who will blaspheme the name  
 275 Of his own God, either in word or deed,  
 To all the gods he doth both lack and shame,  
 And should have bitter pains for his meed:  
 I say this by yon wretched *Cresseid*,  
 The which through me was sometime Queen of love,  
 280 Me, and my Mother starkly can reprove.

p. 13

Saying of her great infelicitie,  
 I was the cause, and my mother *Venus*,  
 She called a blind goddesse, and might not see,  
 With slander and defame injurious:  
 285 Thus her living, unclean, and lecherous,  
 She would return on me, and on my Mother,  
 To whom I shew my grace above all other.

And since ye are all seven deficate,  
 Participant of divine Sapience:  
 290 This great injure done to our high estate,  
 Me think with pain, we should make recompense,  
 Was never to goddesse done such violence:  
 As well for you, as for my self, I say,  
 Therefore go help to revenge, I you pray.

295 *Mercurius* to *Cupid* gave answer;  
 And said, Sir King, my counsel is that ye  
 Vtter you to the highest Planet here,  
 And take to him the lowest of degree,  
 The pain of *Cresseid* for to modifie:  
 300 As god *Saturn*, with him take *Cynthia*,  
 I am content (quoth he) to take these twa.

- Then thus proceeded *Saturn*, and the *Moon*,  
 When they the matter ripely had digest:  
 For the despight to *Cupid* she had done,  
 305 And to *Venus*, open, and manifest:  
 In all her life with pain to be opprest,  
 And torment sore, with sicknesse incurable,  
 And to all Lovers be abominable.
- This doleful sentence *Saturn* took on hand,  
 310 And passed down where careful *Cresseid* lay,  
 And on her head he laid a frosty wand:  
 Then lawfully on this wise can he say;  
 Thy great fairnesse, and all thy beauty gay,  
 Thy wanton blood, and eke thy golden hair,  
 315 Here I exclude from thee for evermair.
- I change thy mirth into Melancholie,  
 Which is the Mother of all pensivenesse:  
 Thy moisture, and thine heat, in cold and dry:  
 Thine insolence, thy play, and wantonnesse,  
 320 To great disease: thy pomp, and thy richnesse,  
 In mortall need, and great penurity,  
 Thou suffer shalt, and as a Beggar dy.
- O cruel *Saturn*, froward, and angry,  
 Hard is thy doom, and too malicious,  
 325 On fair *Cresseid*: why hast thou no mercy,  
 Which was so sweet, gentle, and amorous?  
 Withdraw thy sentence, and be gracious:  
 As thou wast never, so shews thou thy deed,  
 A wrackful sentence given on fair *Cresseid*.
- Then *Cynthia*, when *Saturn* past away,  
 330 Out of her seat descended down belyve:  
 And read a Bill on *Cresseid* where she lay,  
 Containing this sentence definitive:  
 From heat of body, I do thee here deprive,  
 335 And to thy sicknesse there shall be no cure,  
 But in dolour thy dayes to endure.
- Thy Chrystal een, mingled with blood I make,  
 Thy voice so clear, unpleasant, hore, and hace:  
 Thy lusty lyre, over-spread with spots black,  
 340 And lumps haw, appearing in thy face,

p. 14

p. 15

p. 13

p. 14

Where thou comes, each man shall leave the place:  
 Thus shalt thou go, begging from house to house,  
 With Cup and Clapper, like a *Lazarus*.

345 This doleful Dream, this Vgly Vision,  
 Brought to an end, *Cresseid* from it awoke:  
 And all that Court and Convocation  
 Vanisht away: then rose she up and took  
 A polisht glasse, and her shadow could look,  
 And when she saw her face so deformate,  
 350 If she in heart was wo enough, God wate.

Weeping full sore, lo, what it is (quoth she)  
 With froward language for to mute or stear,  
 Our crabbed goddesse, and so is seen on me:  
 My blaspheming now have I bought full dear,  
 355 All earthly joy and mirth I set arier,  
 Alace, this day! alace, this wofull tide!  
 When I began with my goddesse to chide.

By this was said, a child came from the Hall, p. 15  
 To warn *Cresseid*, the Supper was ready:  
 360 First knocked at the door, and then could call,  
 Madam, your Father bids you come in hy,  
 He hath marvel so long in grouf you ly:  
 And saith, your prayers be too long some deal,  
 The gods do know all your intent full well.

365 (Quoth she) fair child, go to my Father dear,  
 And pray him come to speak with me anone:  
 And so he did, and said, Daughter, what chear? p. 16  
 Alace (quoth she) Father, my mirth is gone.  
 How so (quoth he) And she can all expone,  
 370 As I have told the vengeance and the wrack,  
 For her trespasse *Cupid* could on her take.

He looked on her ugly Lipper face,  
 The which before was white as Lilly flowre:  
 Wringing his hands, he oft-times said, alace!  
 375 That he lived to see that woful hour:  
 For he knew well that there was no succour  
 To her sicknesse, and that doubled his pain:  
 Thus was there care enough between the twain.

When they together mourned had full long:  
 380 Quoth *Cresseid*, Father, I would not be kend,  
 Therefore in secret wayes you let me gang,  
 To yon Hospital at the towns end,  
 And thither some meat, for Charity me send,  
 To live upon: for all mirth in this eard  
 385 Is from me gone, such is my wicked weard.

Then in a Mantle, and a baver Hat,  
 With Cup, and Clapper wonder privily,  
 He opened a secret gate, and out thereat  
 Convoyed her, that no man should espy:  
 390 There to a Village, half a Mile there-by,  
 Delivered in at the Hospital house,  
 And daily sent her part of his almous.

Some knew her well, & some had no knowledge  
 Of her, because she was so deformed,  
 395 With Byles black, over-spread in her visage,  
 And her fair colour faded, and altred:  
 Yet they presumed for her hie regrate,  
 And still mourning, she was of noble kin,  
 With better will therefore, they took her in.

p. 17

The day passed, and *Phæbus* went to rest,  
 400 The Clouds black overwhelmed all the Sky:  
 God wot, if *Cresseid* was a sorry guest,  
 Seeing that uncouth Fare and Harberie:  
 But meat or drink, she dressed her to lye,  
 405 In a dark corner of the house alone,  
 And on this wise weeping she made her moan.

*The Complaint of Cresseid.*

O Sop of sorrow! sunken into care;  
 O cative *Cresseid*! for now and evermaire:  
 410 Gone is thy joy, and all thy mirth on eird,  
 Of all blythnesse, now art thou blaikned bair:  
 There is no salve may save or sound thy sair:  
 Fell is thy Fortune, wicked is thy wierd:  
 Thy blisse is banisht, and thy bail on brierd.  
 Vnder the earth, God if I graved wair,  
 415 Where none of *Greece*, nor *Troy* might hierd.

- Where is thy Chalmer wantonly beseen,  
 With burely bed, and bonkers browdred been,  
 Spices and wine to thy collation:  
 Thy cups all of gold and silver sheen:  
 420 Thy sweat-meats, served in plaits clean,  
 With Saffron, and sause of a good season:  
 Thy gay garments with many goodly gown;  
 Thy pleasant Lane pinned with golden pin:  
 All is arier thy great royal renown.
- 425 Where is thy garden, with thy grasses gay, p. 18  
 And fresh flowres, with the Queen *Floray*?  
 And planted pleasantly in every plain,  
 Where thou wast wont full merrily in May,  
 To walk, and take the dew by it was day,  
 430 And hear the Merle, and Maveis many ane,  
 With Ladies fair in caroling to gain:  
 And seen the royal rinkes in their array,  
 In garments gay garnisht on every grain.
- Thy great triumphant fame, and hie honour,  
 435 Where thou wast called of earthly wights flowr,  
 All is decayed, thy wierd is waltered so:  
 Thy high estate is turned in darknesse dour,  
 Thy Lipper Lodge take for thy burely Bower,  
 And for thy bed take thou a bunsh of stro:  
 440 For wailed wine, and meats thou hadst tho,  
 Take mowly bread, Pery, and Cider sowre:  
 But Cup and Clapper now is all ago.
- My clear voice, and courtly caroling,  
 Where I was wont with Ladies fair to sing:  
 445 Is rank and rouk, full hideous hoar and hace,  
 My pleasant Port, all others precelling,  
 Of lustinesse I was held most condong:  
 Now is deformed the figure of my face,  
 To look on it no lead now liking hes:  
 450 Sowped in syte, I say, with sore sighing,  
 Lodged amongst the Lipper leed, alace!
- O Ladies fair of *Troy* and *Greece* attend  
 My misery, which none may comprehend:  
 My frivole Fortune, mine infelicity,  
 455 My great mischief, which no man can commend, p. 19

Beware in time approaches near the end,  
 And in your minde a Mirrour make of me:  
 As I am now, peradventure that ye  
 For all your might may come to that same end,  
 460 Or else worse, if any worse may be.

Nought is your fairnesse, but a fading flowr:  
 Nought is your famous laud, and hie honour,  
 But winde inflate in other mens ears:  
 Your rosing red in rotting shall retour,  
 465 Example make of me in your memour,  
 Which of such things woful witnesse bears:  
 All wealth on earth away as winde it wears:  
 Beware therefore, approaches near your hour,  
 Fortune is fickel when she begins and steers.

470 THus chiding with her dreary destiny,  
 Weeping, she woke the night from end to end,  
 But all in vain: her dole, her careful cry,  
 Might not remead, nor yet her mourning mend:  
 A Lipper Lady rose, and till her wend:  
 475 And said, Why spurnest thou against the wall,  
 To slay thy self, and mend nothing at all?

Since thy weeping doth double but thy wo,  
 I counsel thee make vertue of a need:  
 Go lear to clap the Clapper to and fro,  
 480 And lear after the Law of Lipper leed.  
 There was no bute but forth-with then she yeed,  
 From place to place, while cold and hunger sair,  
 Compelled her to be a rank Beggair.

That self same time of *Troy* the Garison,  
 485 Which had a Chiftain, worthy *Troylus*:  
 Through jeopardy of war had stricken down,  
 Knights of *Greece*, in number marvellous:  
 With great triumph, and laud victorious,  
 Again to *Troy* right royally they rode,  
 490 The way where *Cresseid* with the Lippers bode.

p. 20

Seeing the troupe, they came all with a steven,  
 They gave a cry, and shook their claps good speed:  
 Said, worthy Lords, for Gods love of Heaven,  
 To us Lipper, part of your alms deed.



495 Then to their cry, noble *Troylus* took heed,  
 Having pitty, near by the place can passe,  
 Where *Cresseid* was, not knowing what she was.

Then upon him she cast up both her een,  
 And with a blink it came into his thought,  
 500 That he sometime before her face had seen,  
 But she was in such plyte he knew her nought:  
 Yet then her look into his minde it brought  
 The sweet visage, and amorous blenking,  
 Of fair *Cresseid* sometime his own Darling.

505 No wonder was, suppose in minde that he,  
 Took her figure so soon: and lo now why?  
 The idol of a thing in face may be  
 So deep imprinted in the fantasie,  
 That it deludes the wits outwardly:  
 510 And so appears in form and like estate,  
 Within the minde as it was figurate.

A spark of love then till his heart can spring,  
 And kindled all his body in a fire:  
 With hot fever, a sweat and trembling  
 515 Him took, while he was ready to expire,  
 To bear his shield his breast began to tyre:  
 Within a while he changed many hew,  
 And neverthesse not one another knew.

p. 21

For Knightly pitty, and memoriall,  
 520 Of fair *Cresseid*, a Girdle can he take,  
 A purse of Gold, and many gay Iewell,  
 And in the skirt of *Cresseid* down can swake,  
 Then rode away, and not a word he spake:  
 Pensive in heart, while he came to the town,  
 525 And for great care, some say, almost fell down.

The Leapper folk to *Cresseid* then could draw,  
 To see the equal distribution  
 Of the almous: but when the gold they saw,  
 Each one to other privily can rown,  
 530 And said, Yon Lord hath more affection,  
 How ever it be, unto yon *Lazarus*,  
 Than to us all, we know by his almous.

- What Lord is yon, quoth she, have ye no feill,  
 Hath done to us so great humanitie?  
 535 Yea (quoth a Leaper man) I know him well,  
 Sir *Troylus*, he is gentle, and free.  
 When *Cresseid* understood that it was he,  
 Stiffer than Steel there start a bitter stound,  
 Throughout her heart, and fell down to the ground.
- 540 When she overcame, with sighing sore and sad,  
 With many a careful cry and cold ochane:  
 Now is my breast with stormy stounds stad: p. 22  
 Wrapped in wo, a wretchful will of wane.  
 Then fell in swown, full oft ere she would fane,  
 545 And ever in her swowning cryed she thus,  
 O false *Cresseid*, and true Knight *Troylus*.
- Thy love, thy lawty, and thy gentlenesse,  
 I counted smal in my prosperitie:  
 So efflated I was in wantonnesse,  
 550 And clam upon the fickle wheel so hie:  
 All faith and love I promist unto thee,  
 Was in it self fickle and frivolous.  
 O false *Cresseid*, and true Knight *Troylus*.
- For love of me thou keepest countenance,  
 555 Honest and chaste in conversation,  
 Of all women protector and defence  
 Thou wast, and helped their opinion:  
 My minde in fleshly foul affection  
 Was enclined, to love Lecherous.  
 560 Fye, false *Cresseid*, and true Knight *Troylus*.
- Lovers beware, and take good heed about,  
 Whom that ye love, for whom ye suffer pain:  
 I let you wit, there is right few thereout,  
 Whom ye may trust, to have true love again:  
 565 Prove when ye will, your labour is in vain,  
 Therefore I red ye take them as ye find,  
 For they are sad as Weather-cock in wind.
- Because I know the great unstablenesse,  
 Bruckle as glasse, unto my self I say:  
 570 Trusting in other as great unfaithfulnesse,  
 As unconstant, and as untrue of fey: p. 23

Though some be true, I wot right few are they,  
 Who finds truth, let him his Lady ruse,  
 None but my self, as now I will accuse.

575 When this was said, with paper she sat down,  
 And on this manner made her Testament.  
 Hère I bequeath my Corps and Carrion,  
 With worms and tades to be riven and rent:  
 My Cup and Clapper, and mine Ornament,  
 580 And all my gold, the Leapper folk shall have,  
 When I am dead, to bury me in Grave.

This royal Ring set with the Ruby red,  
 Which *Troylus* in Dowry to me send:  
 To him again I leave, when I am dead,  
 585 To make my careful death unto him kend.  
 Thus I conclude, and shortly make an end:  
 My sp'rit I leave to *Diane* where she dwels,  
 To walk with her in waste woods and wels.

O *Diomed*, thou hast both Broch and Belt,  
 590 Which *Troylus* gave me in tokening,  
 Of his true love, and with that word she swelt,  
 And soon a Lipper-man took off the Ring,  
 Then buried her withoutten tarrying:  
 To *Troylus* forth-with the Ring he bare,  
 595 And of *Cresseid* the death he can declare.

When he had heard the great infirmity,  
 Her Legacie, and Lamentation,  
 And how she ended in such poverty:  
 He swelt for wo, and fell down in a swown  
 600 For sorrow, his heart to brast was ready bown,  
 Sighing full sadly, said I can do no more,  
 She was untrue, and wo is me therefore.

p. 24

Some said, he made a tomb of Marble gay,  
 And wrote her name and superscription,  
 605 And laid it on her Grave where she lay,  
 In golden Letters, containing this reason;  
 Lo, clear Ladies, fair *Cresseid* of *Troy* the town,  
 Sometime counted the flowr of woman-head,  
 Vnder this stone, laith Lipper lyes dead.

- 610 Now worthy women in this Ballad short,  
 Made for your worship and instruction:  
 Of Charity, I monish, and exhort,  
 Wing not your love with false disception:  
 Bear in your mind this short conclusion,  
 615 Of fair *Cresseid*, as I have said before,  
 Since she is dead, I speak of her no more.

## FINIS.

- 1 Dolefull] doolie CT.  
 15 sore] fair CT.  
 17 Northern] *so* T; Northin C.  
 19 frosts] froist CT.  
 34 the] be CT.  
 35 I have both] baith I haue CT.  
 45 abade] abraid CT.  
 47 vain hope] wanhope CT.  
 48 esperance] Esperus CT.  
 49 whiles . . . whiles] quhyle . . . quhyle C; while . . . *and* while T.  
 57 to] *om.* CT.  
 59 into] in CT.  
 63 false] fair CT.  
 who] that C; whiche T.  
 73 set his whole] he set his haill C; sette was al his T.  
 74 Letter of] Lybell of C; lybel T.  
 82 amongst] amang CT.  
 88 woman-hood] womanheid CT.  
 89 which] *so* T; quhik C.  
 97 Builled] Beildit C; Bylded T.  
 98 Who] Quhilk C; Whiche T.  
 amongst] amang CT.  
 102 have] of CT.  
 106 their] the CT.  
 107 Keeper] Wes keiper CT.  
 109 was] *so* T; was thame C.  
 123 on hy] in hy CT.  
 130 in all] all in CT.  
 138 grow] grew CT.  
 139 shorn] slane CT.  
 140 forlorn] forlane CT.  
 142 spirit in] spreit intill C; spirte in T.  
 144 the (2)] ane CT.  
 148 things] thing CT.  
 149 stir] steir C; stere T.  
 152 Who] Quhilk CT.  
 154 austern] auster C; austryne T.  
 155 frozned] frosnit C; frounsed T.  
 156 checkered] cheuerit C; sheuered T.  
 160 at] fra CT.  
 161 so] als CT.  
 162 Out over] Atour CT.

- 164 guise] gyis C; gate T.  
 166 into] within CT.  
 167 flush] flasche C; fasshe T.  
 171 things] thing CT.  
 174 good and] wonder C; wonders T.  
 176 was (2)] so T; wer C.  
 178 guise full gay] gyis full C; gyte ful gay T.  
 194 Souldiour-like] Tuilgeour lyke C; tulsure lyke T.  
 195 a] *om.* CT.  
 196 the] this CT.  
 202 is] to CT.  
 203 Must all ga die that in this world is wrocht C;  
       Must go dye that al this worlde hath wrougt T.  
 214 Whittish] Quhitlie CT.  
       something] sum deill CT.  
 216 and called *Philogie*] callit Philologie CT.  
 217 rolled] rollis C; rolleth T.  
 218 gay] so T; *om.* C.  
 222 With] Quhyte C; White T.  
 228 And] *om.* CT.  
       a] ony CT.  
 230 vertant] variant CT.  
       to] *om.* CT.  
 231 laughing and] lauch and with CT.  
 236 Mingled] Mingit CT.  
       fair] fals CT.  
 244 out over] atouir CT.  
 248 th'Apothecars] the Pothecairis CT.  
 250 in (2)] in ane CT.  
 256 to appear] appeir C; tapere T.  
 257 Hew] Haw CT.  
 258 borrowed] borrowis C; boroweth T.  
 260 guise] gyse C; gyte T.  
 262 upon] on CT.  
 263 nearer] nar the CT.  
 267 listned] liken C; lykyng T.  
 270 Sermon (2)] sentence CT.  
 271 wailling] veiling CT.  
       capalite] Cap alyte C; cappe a lyte T.  
 275 or] so T; in C.  
 276 the] *om.* CT.  
 277 for] to CT.  
 279 Queen] flour CT.  
 283 She . . . and] so T; Ane blind Goddes hir cald that C.  
 286 on (2)] *om.* CT.  
 287 above] so T; abone C.  
 290 injure] so T; Iniurie C.  
 292 goddesse] Goddes CT.  
 297 Vtter] Refer CT.  
 301 these] thay CT.  
 318 thine] thy CT.  
 320 richnesse] riches C; richesse T.  
 334 I do thee here] I the now C; here I the T.

- 335 there] *om.* CT.  
 cure] recure CT.  
 338 unpleasant] *so* T; vnplesand C.  
 341 leave] fle C; flye T.  
 342 Thus] *so* T; This C.  
 344 doleful] doolie CT.  
 352 mute or] mufe and CT.  
 353 goddesse] Goddis C; goddes T.  
 357 goddesse] Goddis for C; goddes T.  
 360 then] syne C; efte T.  
 362 in] on CT.  
 364 do know] wait CT.  
 371 could on her] on hir culd CT.  
 374 he oft-times] oftymes he C; oftymes T.  
 375 he] he had CT.  
 378 the] thame C; hem T.  
 381 wayes] wyse CT.  
 382 To] *so* T; Wnto C.  
 390 There to] *so* T; Wnto C.  
 391 in] hir in CT.  
 Hospital] Spittaill CT.  
 394 deformed] deformait CT.  
 396 altred] alterait CT.  
 402 sorry] sorrowfull CT.  
 409 on] in CT.  
 411 save or sound] saif the of C; helpe T.  
 414 if] *so* T; gif C.  
 415 nor] nor  $\bar{x}$ it of CT.  
 419 Thy] The CT.  
 420 Thy] *so* T; The C.  
 421 Saffron and] Saipheron C; sauery T.  
 423 pleasant] *so* T; plesand C.  
 pin] prene C; pene T.  
 425 thy (2)] *so* T; thir C.  
 426 with] quhilk CT.  
 427 And planted] Had paintit CT.  
 plain] pane CT.  
 432 seen] se CT.  
 438 Thy] This CT.  
 439 thou] now CT.  
 441 mowly] mowlit CT.  
 444 fair] for C; *line om.* T.  
 445 rank and] rawk as C; ranke as T.  
 446 pleasant] plesand C; *line om.* T.  
 455 commend] amend CT.  
 464 in] to CT.  
 468 your] *so* T; the C.  
 477 doth double but] dowbillis bot C; but doubleth T.  
 479 Go] *so* T; To C.  
 481 forth-with then] furth with thame C; forthwith  
 (or forth with ?) *tham (or than ?)* T.  
 484 self same] samin C; same T.  
 Garison] Garnisoun CT.

- 485 a] to C; the T.  
 489 right] *so* T; richt richt C.  
 490 Lippers] Lipper CT.  
 491 the troupe] that companie CT.  
 492 their claps] coppis CT.  
 494 alms] Almous CT.  
 497 was (1)] sat CT.  
 knowing] witting CT.  
 500 before her face] hir face befoir CT.  
 501 plyte] *so* T; plye C.  
 507 face] cace CT.  
 512 can] culd C; couth T.  
 523 he] *so* T; *om.* C.  
 525 some say] oft syis C; oftsyth T.  
 526 could] can C; couth T.  
 535 Yea] *Yes* CT.  
 536 he] it CT.  
 541 a] *so* T; *om.* C.  
 543 a wretchedful will] ane wretch full will C; wretch fulwyl T.  
 544 fell in swown full] *so* T; swounit scho C.  
 would fane] culd refrane C; wolde fone T.  
 549 efflated] eleuait C; effated T.  
 551 unto] to CT.  
 552 it] the C; thy T.  
 554 keepest] kept CT.  
 countenance] *so* T; gude continence C.  
 559 love] Lustis CT.  
 560 and] O CT.  
 569 unto] *so* T; into C.  
 577 bequeath] *so* T; beteiche C.  
 578 tades] with Taidis CT.  
 riven and] *om.* CT.  
 582 the] this CT.  
 583 Dowry] *so* T; drowrie C.  
 584 leave] leif it CT.  
 586 and shortly] schortlie and CT.  
 590 tokening] *so* T; takning C.  
 593 Then] *so* T; Syne C.  
 596 the] hir CT.  
 600 For] *so* T; For greit C.  
 ready] *om.* CT.  
 601 do] *om.* CT.  
 603 gay] gray CT.  
 605 where] quhair that C; where as T.  
 607 clear Ladies fair] fair Ladyis CT.  
 Troy the] *so* T; Troyis C.  
 609 laith] lait CT.  
 613 Wing] Ming CT.